

REMARKS

The Official Action dated July 13, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1-8 and 11-16 have been canceled without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 9 and 10 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicants wish to acknowledge the Examiner's indication in section 8 of the Office Action that claims 9 and 10 are allowable over the prior art of record. With the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention is now in proper condition for allowance.

With reference to section 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,705,658 and 6,499,787 issued to Jach et al. Each of these rejections are respectfully traversed in that the patents to Jach et al. neither disclose nor suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, further discussion with respect to the merits of this rejection is no longer believed to be warranted.

With reference now to sections 6 and 7 of the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 13-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jach et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,174,799 issued to Haltenberger while claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jach et al. in view of Haltenberger as applied to claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,269,581 issued to Odagaki et al. Likewise, each of these rejections are respectfully

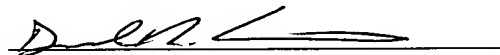
traversed in that the combinations proposed by the Examiner neither disclose nor suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

Again, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of claims 1-8 and 11-16 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein leaving claims 9 and 10 pending in the instant application which have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record by the Examiner. Accordingly, further discussion with respect to the merits of these rejections is no longer believed to be warranted.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 9 and 10 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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